

Angot, which is published by Gauthier Villars, at the price of about \$3.00, is eminently adapted, and we must commend it most heartily to all the readers of the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW who are familiar with the French language or have even made a beginning in its study, as Angot's style is very simple and clear. This work will come as a special boon to the meteorological observers and students of Lower Canada and the French colonies of the East and West Indies, and possibly to many of the citizens of the Louisiana Purchase.

Among the illustrations we notice the beautiful photographs of clouds for which Angot has long been famous. His explanation of the formation of clouds and rain is, of course, in harmony with the latest views of physical science. In fact, in every respect this volume represents the present condition of our knowledge about as correctly as would seem practicable in an elementary work.

THE ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

This Society which has done so much for meteorology has for many years been located at 22 Great George street, Westminster, London, S. W., but now announces its removal to Princes Mansions, 70 Victoria street, Westminster, London, S. W. American meteorologists, both students, teachers, and observers would do well to correspond with this Society through the Assistant Secretary Mr. William Marriott, in so far as they desire to keep in touch with the progress of meteorology in Great Britain and her colonies. The Society publishes an excellent monthly journal and extends its interest over all parts of the world. Of course, it does not receive much relative to America, but that may easily be remedied by communications from our own citizens. Its publications are sent to those who become members of it, and it is fair to presume that in the absence of a special American journal that of the Royal Meteorological Society of London may serve as a medium for the English-speaking world.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS FOR ASSISTANTS.

The remarks on a preceding page by Mr. Kimball are quite in line with the experience of the Editor with reference to the examination papers submitted by some of those who recently took the examinations in "Division A" for the grade of "assistant in the Department of Agriculture." This grade has reference to the scientific and technical positions in the Department, and the applicant is submitted to an examination in one special subject as a major, and two or more correlated subjects as minors, according to section 67 of the recent editions of the Manual of Examinations. The successful applicants are appointed to the lowest class as regards salary, and are then in line of promotion to higher positions; the initial salaries vary between \$840 and \$1,600, and promotions to salaries of \$2,500 and \$3,000 may follow. As the duties required imply much technical knowledge, and often considerable responsibility, it is necessary that the competitive examination should be correspondingly thorough.

The actual examinations in physics and meteorology have frequently shown that the applicants had such an imperfect knowledge of these subjects as to suggest that they had had no opportunity of properly preparing themselves for the work. They were not the class of men that were needed to fill such positions. A second examination of the same kind will undoubtedly be held in April, 1899, and it is to be hoped that a better class of men will apply. Those who have merely done well in the best high schools of the country stand little chance of passing these examinations, which are intended especially to secure young men who have pursued special studies in the higher scientific schools.

Hereafter these major examinations in meteorology should presuppose a knowledge of Loomis's Three Contributions to Meteorology, Ferrel's Recent Advances in Meteorology, Cotter's Equations of the Movements of the Earth's Atmosphere, Abbe's Mechanics of the Earth's Atmosphere, and his Treatise on Meteorological Apparatus and Methods.

In the examinations for assistants more than one day is required. Three hours are given to the major subject, and two hours for each minor. The whole examination is divided into five parts, and the credits are given on the following scale:

	Per cent.
Orthography	1.5
Arithmetic	2.5
Letter writing	2.5
Penmanship	1.5
Copying	2.0
General training and experience	5.0
English composition	5.0
Major examination in special scientific subject	50.0
Minor examinations in two required subjects	20.0
Minor examinations in electives	10.0
Total	100.0

An applicant for the position of assistant in the Division of Soils would, for instance, have to take his major examination in physics, especially as applied to meteorology and soil study. His minor examinations might be in meteorology, physical geography, Latin, German, French, Italian, Swedish, or Spanish.

An applicant for the position of assistant in the Weather Bureau would take his major in meteorology, his minor in physics, physical geography, and modern languages.

The term assistant is used here in a general way to designate officials whose duties are scientific rather than clerical, and whose rank and pay are next to those of the chief and assistant chief of the respective divisions of the Department of Agriculture.

As the chief purpose of the examinations is to provide eligible registers for appointments to technical and scientific positions of the lower grades, the standards for the examination questions and papers should be made with reference to the necessary qualifications for such positions, and should be of a uniform grade in the different subjects.

As regards the higher scientific and expert positions, in case vacancies are not filled by promotions, special examinations will be ordered by the Commission whenever it appears that existing registers do not contain eligibles having the qualifications necessary for the positions to be filled.

The above examination for the grade of assistant is much more difficult than that prescribed for the position of observer, as defined in section 91 of the Civil Service manual. The latter covers the following points:

	Per cent.
Spelling	5.0
Arithmetic	5.0
Letter writing	5.0
Penmanship	5.0
Copying from plain copy	5.0
Copying from plain draught	5.0
Meteorology	40.0
Essay writing	20.0
Geography	10.0
Total	100.0

The samples of questions published by the Civil Service Commission show that this examination for observers is, as regards meteorology, about equivalent to the easier portions of the published elementary meteorologies of Waldo, Davis, and other popular authors, but it is not probable that one who crams either of these books into his memory and neglects the broader education obtainable in our best high schools will make a very good showing at the examination.

If there should be no vacancy in the grade of assistants, properly so called, there is still likely to be an opening in the